



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF THE ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

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HEADQUARTERS
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FIGHT ON CIVIC FEDERATION LOST

Socialists are Badly Routed in Their Fight on the Floor of American Federation of Labor Convention.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 25.—The much heralded fight against the officers of the American Federation of Labor who are members of the National Civic Federation has taken place. Since the United Mine Workers in Convention amended their constitution prohibiting any member of the Mine Workers from becoming a member of the National Civic Federation, and the withdrawal of John Mitchell from the trade agreement department of the National Civic Federation as the result of the action of the Miners' Convention the Socialists have been actively engaged in an effort to procure sufficient strength to pass a resolution at the Atlanta Convention prohibiting officers of the American Federation of Labor from holding membership in the National Civic Federation. The Miners' delegation to the American Federation of Labor came instructed to make an effort to have the Convention take similar action as did the Miners. This gave the Socialists a nucleus of 2504 votes to start with. Three resolutions were introduced, all being practically in the same tenor, seeking to prohibit officers of the Federation from becoming members of the National Civic Federation, or continuing membership therein. These resolutions were referred to the Resolutions Committee which made an exhaustive investigation in an effort to discover whether there was any valid reason why the resolutions should be passed. Finding none, the Resolutions Committee reported unfavorably. In the discussion which followed Duncan McDonald, Tom Lewis and E. S. McCullough of the Miners, and Max Hayes spoke against the adoption of the report of the committee, while Dennis Hayes, John Mitchell, James O'Connell, W. B. Wilson, James M. Lynch, John Walker, W. D. Mahon, T. W. McCullough of Typographical Union, Tim Healy, and President Gompers spoke in favor of the adoption of the report of the Committee. While the Miners' delegation was instructed to vote for the resolution and did vote for it, yet John Mitchell and W. B. Wilson spoke in favor of the adoption of the Committee's report, although stating that they would be compelled to vote against it owing to the instructions from their organization. In his speech John Mitchell made the charge that the Convention of the Miners which amended the constitution forbidding membership in the

National Civic Federation had been "packed" by permitting men to act as delegates who were not entitled to sit as such; that credentials were illegally issued, and stated that he was prepared to produce the proof. Delegate Walker of the Miners substantiated the charges made by Delegate John Mitchell. Almost the entire day was consumed in the debate upon this question and when the roll call was had the vote stood: In favor of the report of the committee 11,851; opposed 4,924.

----- BOOMING UNION MAN FOR GOVERNOR

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 25.--L. W. Quick, secretary treasurer of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, is being boomed for the nomination for governor of the state of Missouri. Mr. Quick is one of the active trade unionists of the country and well and favorably known. He is now the city treasurer of St. Louis.

----- COMPENSATION ACT UPHELD

Madison, Wis., Nov. 18.--The Supreme Court of this state has just handed down a decision upholding the constitutionality of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

----- LABOR ON PANAMA CANAL

Washington, Nov. 18.--It is reported by officials in charge of the work on the Panama canal that there is now a surplus of labor in the zone. It is also stated that no importations of labor have taken place for a considerable length of time. There has been a decided falling off in immigration, while a large number of West Indian laborers have gone into the interior and are no longer available for labor, except casually.

----- DENVER SHOP MEN

Denver, Nov. 25.--The striking Union Pacific shop men just recently held the largest meeting inaugurated since the Federation strike on the Harriman System. E. V. Brake, State Labor Commissioner, was the principal speaker. It was reported at this meeting that not a single man who had come out on strike had returned to work, and that few non-union men have been secured to take the places of the strikers. The men are strong, and are determined to win the contest.

----- MOVES TO DENVER

Denver, Nov. 25.--The Colorado Industrial Review, formerly published in Pueblo, has been removed to this city. It is stated that this labor publication will become the official organ of the United Mine Workers for the fifteenth district. The paper is edited and managed by H. W. Fox, who is one of the ablest labor editors of the western country.

The closing of the Solway Iron Works, Merryport, England, has thrown 300 men out of work and the men have been informed that the works are likely to be closed for six months.

"DEMANDS OF LABOR"

Editorial Comment in Leading Washington Newspaper Favorable to Recommendations of Federation's President.

Washington, Nov. 25.—The Washington Herald, commenting on the annual report of President Gompers, editorially has this to say: "The demands made by organized labor, as set forth in the annual report of President Gompers, submitted at Atlanta convention, are neither novel nor radical. They have to do, in the main, with reforms for which labor has been struggling for some years. The initiative and referendum and the recall, for instance, have been advocated by the working classes as a desirable political system, while the restriction of immigration and the passage of the so-called anti-injunction bills have also been constantly urged. The appeal for uniform laws for the protection of life and health in factory buildings is one that ought to meet with prompt response from legislators everywhere. Already there has been much progress in this direction, recent terrible calamities having awakened the public conscience in regard to conditions which unfortunately exist. There is also good foundation for the request for the creation of a Federal department devoted solely to matters affecting labor, while laws for the further restriction of convict labor are already under consideration in many Commonwealths. As pointed out in The Washington Herald some days ago, the disclosures regarding the treatment of convicts in the Richmond penitentiary, and the fact that the manufacture of shirt waists and blouses by private firms is now impossible in Missouri, owing to the use of convict labor, make the situation one deserving of most serious consideration. One feature of Mr. Gompers' report has especial interest in this city. It deals with the Executive order which denies government employes the right of petition to Congress, and thus prevents them from taking active steps in securing a betterment of their condition. In asking the repeal of this order, the Federation of Labor undoubtedly voices the desire of a very large number of government employes."

TAILORS AFTER MINIMUM WAGE

London, Nov. 25.—One of the most sweated trades in the United Kingdom is that of the tailoring industry, which numbers several thousand workers, especially with reference to ready made goods. The usual pay for women is, 3s. 6d. per hour and for men, 6d., and the hours are usually 51. It is proposed to bring the tailoring trade under the Trade Board's Act, which will fix a minimum wage which tailors and tailoresses must be paid, and will probably be fixed at 14s. 10d. per week for all classes of women workers over 18 years of age, after a certain period for learning the work. It is also proposed to fix a minimum for men, but this is not considered so important as that for women, as men are obtaining practically 25s. per week. After the Board of Trade has scheduled a scheme and has notified the employers, six months must elapse before the minimum fixed becomes operative.

BRUTALITY

Southern Pacific Official Denies Water to Striker's Wife and Babe, Even Though Payment Was Offered.

Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 25.--According to "The Voice of the People," published in this city, the Southern Pacific officials are indeed desperate and have resorted to exceedingly brutal tactics, that the strikers on the system may be crushed. The paper states: "Even a Digger Indian or a Papago buck on the war path, will turn over a rock and allow a squaw with a new born pappoose the first pick of the fat grubs which may be found beneath it, but it has remained for an official of the Southern Pacific Railroad, Superintendent J. H. Dyer, of the Tucson division, which extends from El Paso to Yuma, to refuse a drink of water to a striker's wife with a new born babe at her breast. The babe was only three days old when the order was issued by the Railroad Superintendent, and on account of the order the wife of W. E. Stewart a striking boilermaker at Gila Bend, Arizona, out in the desert, miles from civilization, is without water for the nurse to wash the linen, which the simplest demands of sanitation, to say nothing of civilization, require in such cases. There are two kinds of water at Gila Bend--the water which the engines must use--it eats the flues out of boilers with a celerity which requires a force of men at the round house to make what are called "running repairs" on the locomotives, and W. E. Stewart was one of these men. The other water is drinking water, which is brought in a water car from Sentinel. Since the strike Stewart has been standing with the other mechanics of the Federation at his post, the little semi-oasis of the desert about half way between Tucson and Yuma. On November 7, Superintendent Dyer, angered and furious at the unbreakable lines of the snopmen who would not return to work until the grievances are adjusted, issued his order to cut off the water from all strikers at Gila Bend. The secretary of the Tucson branch of the Federation received a wire from Stewart telling of the action and asking legal counsel. A. A. Worsley, the attorney for the Federation, notified Stewart by wire, to tender pay for the water. Stewart obeyed and money was offered by his father-in-law, while Stewart held his three days old babe in his arms and looked into the eyes of his suffering wife, unable to offer her a drink of water which she craved, but the money was refused by the round house foreman, Allgood, who was acting under Dyer's orders. Kindly disposed women neighbors, whose husbands are still in the Railroad service in other departments than that affected by the strike, have seen to it that enough water to drink has been smuggled to the bedside of Mrs. Stewart, whose condition forbids her being moved to any other place at this time."

INCREASES FORCE

Washington, Nov. 15.--The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is rapidly enlarging its force to meet the heavy demand for one, two and five dollar bank notes. Thirty additional employes have just been added, and it is expected seventy more will be immediately employed. The workday has, for the time being, been lengthened an hour, and the output has been raised from 225,000 to 260,000 sheets per day.

MINISTERS FOR LABOR

Winnipeg Association Takes Action Against Employers and Extends Support to Leather Workers.

Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 25.--The Great West Saddlery Company of this city has locked out that portion of their employes who refuse to sign an individual agreement to the effect that they would forever remain outside the pale of union labor. It must be borne in mind that the men who are locked out, dismissed from the factory, were unorganized, and did not belong to any union, but lost their positions simply because they would not sign the agreement, which in effect, signed away their freedom, which was presented to them by their employers. The Ministerial Association of Winnipeg became interested in the affair and made an investigation, and as a result, placed itself squarely against the attitude assumed by the employers. The Ministerial Association, which represents the great majority of Protestant ministers in this city, declare: "That personal liberty conditioned by consideration for the general good is the sacred right of every man, be he employer or employe, and by both alike this right must be acknowledged and maintained. Hence, it is the right of workmen to unite in labor organizations, which it is to be noted, are authorized by law and recognized in the statutes of the Dominion, notably in the terms and procedure of the Lemieux act; as it is also the right of the employer to engage upon fair conditions such men as he may choose without hindrance. * * * That the demand of the Great West Saddlery Company, which if generally enforced, would wipe out all labor organizations, traverses the sacred right of personal liberty, ignores the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, stands squarely across the advancing march of modern science, opposes the opinions of the most progressive employers of labor the world over and outrages every instinct of British fair play."

WAGES IN POWDER PLANTS

Washington, Nov. 25.--According to a preliminary report of the Census Bureau, the average wages per year of men employed in the manufacture of explosives only reaches \$686. per man per year in this dangerous industry.

INSPECTORS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Nov. 25.--The International Association of Factory Inspectors will hold its next annual convention in Washington, according to information given out in this city by the Chamber of Commerce. No date has been selected as yet.

VIOLATOR MULCTED BY FINES

Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 25.--Nelson Brothers, contractors of public work, pleaded guilty in the superior court to violating the 8-hour law and working men and teams below the scale. A fine of \$50.00 and costs was assessed in two cases, and a number of other cases that had been filed against the contractors were dismissed. The State Labor Department is using great activity in the enforcement of the 8-hour law in this State.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Further decisions by the Supreme Court relating to the extent of the application of the Federal Safety Appliance laws, are looked for daily. In the Alabama Safety Appliance Case, which was recently decided, it was laid down that the safety appliance laws extend to all cars and locomotives on any railroad that was a highway of interstate commerce. The decision which is now being looked for, originating in Colorado, will turn on the definition of interstate commerce within the meaning of the safety appliance laws. In this case the Government is seeking to enforce the law on the Colorado and North Western R. R., a narrow gauge line entirely within the borders of Colorado. In the Alabama decision it was held that all locomotives, cars or other equipment used on any railroad which is a highway of interstate commerce, must comply with the Federal Safety Appliance Act.

MINES REGULATION BILL

London, Nov. 25.—Owing to the fact that an amendment to the coal mines' regulation bill was passed in Committee, by two votes only, which made the employment of women on the pit brow illegal, a deputation of twenty pit brow women has arrived in London protesting against the abolition of their work, which would throw over 5,000 women out of employment. The reasons given in Committee for making it illegal for women to be employed on the pit brow was that the work was unhealthy, demoralizing, unsuitable, and tended to prevent women from carrying out their normal functions.

MINIMUM WAGE QUESTION

London, Nov. 25.—The miners in all parts of the country are struggling hard to get a minimum wage, while the coal operators are resisting the demand. Wages of miners vary considerably in different parts of the country, and at the annual conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain concessions were given to the colliery proprietors. The Federation intends holding meetings in Scotland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and South Wales, and the opinions thus obtained will be placed before the National Conference of the miners. The owners have as yet refused to give way on the question of a minimum wage, but seem inclined to improve the pay of the lower paid men.

HARD TO EXIST

London, Nov. 25.—During an inquest at Whyteleafe, Surrey County, England, on a two months' old girl named Wilding, whose death the doctor claimed was due to wasting away on account of bad assimilation of food, the foreman of the jury asked the father, a railway porter, if his wages were sufficient to allow him to provide proper nourishment for his wife for her recent confinement. Wilding replied that he had 16s. per week, from which he paid 5s. for his club and 3s. house rent, leaving 12s. 7d. to keep his wife and three children. Every other week his pay was 2s. more for Sunday duty. Several jurymen remarked that it was impossible for a man to give his wife and family proper nourishment on 12s. 7d. per week.

Carlsbad, Austria, Nov. 25.—This city, itself one of the most expensive places to live in Europe, has keenly felt the increased cost of living. A general shortage of crops has caused a big rise in prices of the common necessities. Just recently, a large but orderly demonstration against the price of food stuffs was made. Labeling people, between four and five thousand, mostly from the Orina factories near the city — and their wives — marched in a body to the Court House and presented a formal protest against the high prices. As a result, the City Council ordered five carloads of potatoes from an adjacent town, and before the arrival of the shipment, the entire amount was sold at the rate of \$1.62 per 100 Kilos. (220.46 pounds), while the regular market price was \$2.75 to \$3.00. The Council is contemplating shipping other classes of food into the city and selling at actual cost, to relieve the present pressure.

BRISTOL MINERS' SUIT

Bristol, Nov. 25.—The strike of practically the whole of the Bristol miners which commenced on September 2nd, is still in progress and there seems no immediate prospect of settlement. The miners have revolted against the low wages which for years they have been receiving. The average day wage in the district for eight hours is at the rate of only: Hewers, 4s. 3½d; Carters and Fillers, 3s. 2½d; Repairers, 3s. 11½d; to youths from 20 years of age down, 2s. 3½d is paid. Negotiations were recently re-opened with a view of settlement; the men only asked 3d. per day raise on the above rates, and the colliery owners offered only 2½d raise, and that only to apply when the men had not been able to obtain the rates mentioned, owing to abnormal conditions. The miners refused to accept the offer.

POSTAL SERVANTS

London, Nov. 25.—The Postmaster-General has kept his promise and brought before the House of Commons the fact that numerous grievances exist in various departments, and as a result the Government has accorded the request of the employees to appoint a select committee of the House of Commons to hold an inquiry into the wages and other conditions of employment of post office servants. With characteristic slowness, however, it is stated that the Government does not propose to move for the appointment of the Inquiry Board until early in 1913. The employees of the Government do not take kindly to this plan, and some of the newspapers are taking up their cause, which may result in quicker action.

AN ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

London, Nov. 25.—The Textile Workers have inaugurated a brisk campaign of organization in the city of Manchester. Unfortunately this latter city is a weak spot so far as organized Textile Workers is concerned, and it has been decided to prosecute this campaign with a view to strengthening the general organization.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

Washington, Nov. 25.—Fatal railway accidents continue in the same old ratio. The engineer and fireman of a St. Louis and San Francisco passenger train at Ft. Scott, Kansas, were recently killed by the explosion of the boiler. A double-header freight train on the Norfolk and Western, killed a section hand and seriously wounded several others. An engineer on the Southern Railway was killed, and several trainmen and passengers injured. A trackwalker has been killed on the Pennsylvania road near Frankford, Pa., and another man run down by an electric car at Reading.

DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS

Washington, Nov. 25.—For the purpose of considering the best means of establishing co-operation between the Federal Government, through the Division of Information, Department of Commerce and Labor, and various States in the distribution of immigrants and other residents of the United States, a two day conference has been held in this city at the New Ebbitt, between the representatives of the State Bureau of Immigration, Agriculture, etc., and a representative of the Division of Information.

RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Washington, Nov. 25.—The convention of the United States Civil Service Retirement Association will be held here in January, and it is predicted will be attended by a larger number of delegates than at any similar convention in the past. Interest in the adoption of a civil retirement pension for employes will be the general subject discussed. There is apparently a favorable inclination on the part of Congress to enact such legislation, many Congressmen being outspoken in their advocacy of such a measure.

FIRE LAWS BROKEN

New York, Nov. 25.—Commissioner of Accounts, Raymond B. Fosdick, has submitted to Mayor Gaynor report of the investigation which has been carried on since January 1, 1910, of the records and work of the Bureau of Violations and auxiliary fire appliances. The report asserts that in practically every theatre and moving picture house, as well as hundreds of factories, which are mere fire traps at best, no pretense is made of obeying the law. It is stated that active efforts are to be made at once to correct this state of affairs.

WHAT CHINESE REBELS SEEK

Washington, Nov. 25.— The great uprising in China but emphasizes the great world unrest. Conflicting reports are received in alternating dispatches, but there seems to be a general belief or indication that the rebellion is gathering impetus and will finally be successful. The demands contained in a proclamation issued are as follows: The overthrow of the present Manchu dynasty; the founding of a new dynasty with a Chinese emperor on the throne; the succoring of the needy and oppressed, and the introduction of many much needed reforms.

WANT HIGHER PAY FOR WOMEN

Boston, Nov. 25.--Public hearing was recently held by the Commission appointed to consider the wisdom of establishing a scale of minimum wages for women and minors in this state. An official of the Retail Clerks said that in the department stores the wages of women of more than 18 years do not average more than \$7. per week, and for persons under 18 years the average is about \$4. He also asserted that the minimum should not be less than \$9, and that at present the proprietors of these stores refuse to employ any persons who are working in other stores, so that any one having employment can not secure a better position in another establishment.

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO MEET

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 25.--Under direction of the State Bureau of Labor there will be a State conference of employers and employees in the Twin Cities, on December 7 and 8, to discuss the problems of safeguarding machinery and prevention of accidents. Inspection of manufacturing plants in the cities will be made to view safety appliances in use. Addresses on various kindred subjects will also be had.

MANUFACTURERS FINED

New York, Nov. 25.--Eighteen manufacturers were recently arraigned in special sessions to answer charges of violating labor laws. The charges including improper sanitation in workrooms, bolted doors in factories, improper dressing rooms for women, and working minors overtime. Most of the defendants pleaded guilty and sentences were suspended; while for flagrant cases, or second offenses, fines were imposed of from \$10. to \$25. Further prosecutions are to follow.

ROAD RAISES WAGES

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Nov. 25.--Members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers have been notified that all operators, towermen and agents on the New York Central lines have been given an increase in wages; the increase beginning November 15. More than 6,000 men are benefited.

A STUDY IN PRODUCTION

Washington, Nov. 25.--The United States Census Bureau, in a bulletin just issued, gives statistical information relative to the manufacture of agricultural implements during the five years, 1904 to 1909. It shows that the increase in the value of implements during the period mentioned was over \$34,000,000, the increased number of employes 5,000, while the additional labor cost was only \$6,000,000.

LABOR MEN BEATEN

Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 25.--Rezin Orr, international secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, and John J. Scannell, organizer for the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, have been badly beaten. They allege that the attack was made by hired slugs of the local traction company.

LECTURE COURSE IN UNION

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 25.—The Steam Engineers' union in this city has made arrangements for a course of practical and technical lectures bearing on the work of the craft to be delivered in meetings of the union during the coming winter, following the policy adopted last winter. The lectures are to begin at a stated hour, the business session of the union being first in order. The lectures are to be given once a month.

CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 25.—The Minnesota child labor committee opened its session in Duluth recently with a good attendance from all parts of the state. Many papers were read, and an able address was made by Commissioner of Labor Houk. The committee has done valuable agitation work.

SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 25.—The strike of the men employed by the Zenith Dredge company has been settled and the terms are satisfactory to both sides to the controversy. There were about 80 men effectuated, and the settlement concedes the union shop and other conditions asked for. The men are members of the International Longshoremen's union.

REPORTS ENCOURAGING

Ft. Worth, Tex., Nov. 25.—The striking Carmen of this city have received complete reports from all strike centers in Texas and Oklahoma. The report is in detail and reveals an exceedingly encouraging outlook. Not a man on strike in the territory mentioned has deserted. In some of the cotton sections of Texas the union farmers have employed the striking carmen to pick cotton, and those who have been employed have been able to make more money than when working at their trade.

BOILERMAKERS ON STRIKE

Punkirk, N. Y., Nov. 25.—J. A. Franklin, President of the International Boilermakers and Helpers' Union, by authority of the local unions at Punkirk, Schenectady, Richmond, Pittsburg and Montreal, has promulgated a strike order against all of the plants of the American Locomotive Company. Approximately 2,500 men are involved in the controversy.

MEDICAL STUDENTS STRIKE

New York, Nov. 25.—Almost 100 junior students in the Long Island college hospital in Brooklyn went on strike recently against a lecturer on the principles of medicine. The students demanded the lecturers' removal on the ground of alleged unfairness.

During the past six months there were 891,807 paupers in England and Wales, which is a decrease of 43,931 as compared with the preceding year. The large decrease is owing to the operation of the Old Age Pension Act.